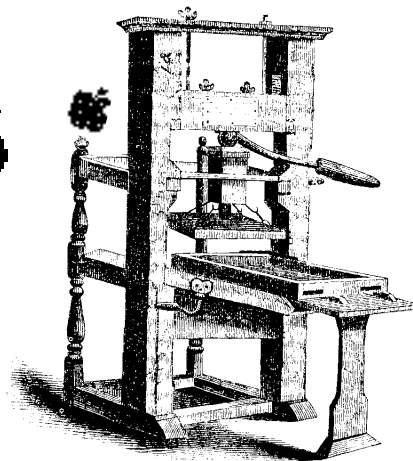


AppleSiders PRESS

2000

Vol. 20
No. 1



Ongoing Support For People Who Enjoy Using Their Computers.

January 19, 2000 AppleSiders Meeting

NEW LOCATION!
Wednesday, January 19th, at
Northern Kentucky University's
(NKU's) Band Room
inside the 126 Fine Arts Bldg.

Beginners Macintosh Q and A at 7:00 PM
AppleSiders Meeting will start at 7:30 PM
This meeting is open to the public.



A new year and a new meeting location!
Come to the January meeting and check
out the new meeting room.

The January meeting will feature the
keynote address by Steve Jobs from
MacWorld 2000 and a report by our
own AppleSiders members who have
attended MacWorld in person.

Plan to be at the meeting and give us
your input on the new place.

Tips and Techniques

USB CD-R

If you have a USB-compatible CD-R
burner for your USB-equipped Mac, you
may experience underrun errors when
burning CDs at higher speeds (4x for
example). If you experience such errors,
widen available bandwidth to the burner
by connecting the burner directly to the
Macs USB port rather than to a USB
hub or the USB port found on the Macs

keyboard, try disconnecting other USB
devices (except the keyboard and mouse,
of course).

Internet Explorer

If you use Microsofts Internet Explorer
4.5, you will have a problem with online
shopping and other services that require
security certificates. These certificates are
set to expire at the stroke of midnight on
December 31 and unless you update
your copy of IE 4.5, you will be unable
to shop and bank securely in the new
year. This is not a Y2K issue, just
Microsoft not getting a new version out
sooner.

Find the update at:

<http://www.microsoft.com/mac/download/en/other_EN.asp>

OS 9

Mac OS 9's Multiple Users function
allows you to create a customized set of
accessible applications for each user.
However, if a Mac is used by a number
of people, creating several sets of these

applications can be tiresome. Apple
makes this process a little easier by
providing a Duplicate button. Here's
how to use it to its best advantage:

Create a set of applications that every
user will have access to. For example, if
you know that everyone will need access
to a web browser and email client, create
a set that includes access to those
applications. Name this set something
like "Base User." With Base User
selected in the Multiple Users control
panel click the Duplicate button. Now
add those applications that you'd like a
subset of all users to access — a word
processing application and QuickTime
Player, for example.

Continue to grant greater access to other
users by building application sets based
on the last duplicated user.

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Editor / Publisher—Terry Crooker
Rapid Copy Printing, 5984 Cheviot Rd.
Cincinnati, OH 45247
741-4325—Home • 385-0888—Work
editor@applesiders.com

AppleSiders PRESS is published monthly and sent via 3rd class mail to all full AppleSider members. In addition we exchange newsletters with other Apple User Groups across the country.

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On-Line Shopping

by Frank Miller

Did you find Santa on the web this season? There were headlines that many seniors and juniors did their shopping by using the web. There also were stories about problems with web suppliers, etc. Were they just stories on TV to lure viewers back? Who knows what is right?

Well, I used the web for my Christmas shopping. After seeing the Apple seminar on digital editing using the new iMac DVs and G4s with Final Cut Pro, I was intrigued. Of course the first item of equipment is a digital video camcorder. After reviewing several articles on web sites like www.2pop.com and DVD Insider I found both Canon and Sony made camcorders that would fill the requirements. So I went to the Canon and Sony web sites and downloaded product literature, specs, features, etc. Reading and comparing is fun.

Once I digested the data and made my decision on the make and model, I was ready to purchase. Turning to a pile of catalogs I selected a supplier and telephoned in my order. Telephoned? Why not use the web site? Because I am still so old fashioned that I wanted the assuring voice of a human taking down my credit card number. It is not about security. It isn't about speed, as the web is definitely faster. It is about hearing a human, which is only slightly less comfortable than both seeing and hearing someone across a counter. The web will not do either yet and that is what is holding me back. In three or four years when two-way video web communications is common place my buying habits might change. For today, I do my shopping on the web but I do my purchasing on the telephone.

Apple Boot Key Combos:

Bypass startup drive and boot from external (or CD) CMD-OPT-SHIFT-DELETE
 Boot from CD (Apple) C
 Zap PRAM CMD-OPT-P-R
 Disable Extensions SHIFT
 Rebuild Desktop CMD-OPT
 Start without finder windows open OPT
 Boot with Virtual Memory off CMD
 Trigger extension manager at boot-up SPACE
 Force Quadra av machines to use TV as a monitor CMD-OPT-T-V
 Boot from ROM (Mac Classic only) CMD-OPT-X-O
 Force PowerBooks to reset the screen R
 Force an AV monitor to be recognized as one CMD-OPT-A-V
 Eject Boot Floppy Hold Down Mouse Button

After startup:

Bring up dialogue for shutdown/sleep/restart POWER
 Eject a Floppy Disk CMD-SHIFT-1
 Force current app to quit CMD-OPT-ESC
 Unconditionally reboot CTRL-CMD-POWER
 Reset Power Manager on PowerBooks USE THIS LINK
 Put late model PowerBooks to sleep CMD-OPT-POWER

Digital Camera Buying Guidelines, Part 2

by Arthur H. Bleich
<arthur@dpcorner.com>

Is it finally time to buy a digital camera? The digital camera market is already several years old, early adopters are now old pros, and more people consider the switch to digital photography every day. In part one of this article, I asserted that this year really is the year to buy a digital camera, whether it's your first or a successor to an earlier model, and I offered a checklist of features that you should look for in the current crop. In part two, it's time to pull away the curtain and give you my list of best picks for beginners for this year.

If you want to see pictures of the digital cameras described below and check out a comparison chart that lists their features, click on over to my site, the Digital PhotoCorner.

<<http://www.dpcorner.com/>>

The "Model A" of Digital Cameras

The Fuji MX-1200 is the first-ever blister-packed digital camera, but don't let plain-clothes packaging put you off; this camera will deliver excellent pictures. Even though it doesn't have autofocus, its f-4.5 to f-11 lens (38 mm equivalent) will keep objects sharp over a large range and its top shutter speed of 1/750 second will stop most action. When you want to get in really close (like up to 4 inches), flip a switch to Macro mode. It has excellent low-light capabilities, a manual mode to control white balance and exposure compensation, five flash modes, and has about the easiest menu of any digital camera I've ever used. It's ready to go in about 2 seconds after you turn it on, and you can click off shots every 3 to 4 seconds. It's a good-looking digital camera, too, and will take 32 MB SmartMedia memory cards (4 MB included). The MX-1200 marks a defining moment in the history of digital cameras. Street price: about \$250.

<<http://www.fujifilm.com/>>

The Low Light Champion

The Olympus D-450 Zoom has a 3x optical zoom lens, autofocus, and a fast shot-to-shot time of about one second thanks to its big buffer that stores shots as they're being processed. It includes a

whole slew of features including video out, two light metering modes, and a choice of three ISO ratings: 160, 320, and 640. I've shot pictures with this digital camera at night where the camera recorded details I couldn't even see. It can also store uncompressed TIFF images, has a fast sequence mode of up to 2 frames per second, 5 flash modes, shutter speeds of 1/2 to 1/1000 second, and a fast f-2.8/f-8 lens which is needle-sharp. Olympus is one of the most experienced optical houses in the world and has been in the forefront of photographic innovation (including digital photography) for more than 80 years. A nice feature is that distances can be pre-set to capture fast action so the camera isn't slowed down by having to focus. If big prints are what you're looking for, this camera will deliver. Included are Adobe's PhotoDeluxe, Enroute Quick Stitch Panorama software, and an 8 MB Smart Media memory card. Street price: about \$390.

<<http://www.olympusamerica.com/product.asp?c=63&s=12&p=16&product=379>>

Finally, Big Yellow Scores!

The Kodak DC240 Zoom is one of the first Kodak digital cameras I found to be just right: solid and well built. Its shot-to-shot time is fast for the first two images, and then slows to a still-credible four seconds or so between shots. But its simple and elegant controls and menus are where this charcoal and silver beauty excels. If you can't figure them out in less than five minutes, give up on digital cameras. In essence, Kodak has reverted to their roots in that you need only to push a few buttons and the camera does the rest. The LCD monitor is a bit grainy in low light and a tad jerky when you move it quickly from one scene to another, but since you're not shooting movies, it's tolerable. It has a 3x optical zoom, an aperture range of f-2.8 to f-16, shutter speeds of 1/2 to 1/755 second, and four flash modes. It also comes with four AA alkaline batteries so you can get going right away, while the included charger juices up the four NiMH rechargeable batteries that also come standard. Also supplied: an 8 MB Compact Flash memory card and Adobe's PhotoDeluxe and PageMill. For video out you can toggle between NTSC or PAL and, along with its standard serial port, the DC240 Zoom features USB. Street price: about \$395.

<<http://www.kodak.com/US/en/digital/cameras/dc240/>>

A Voyeur's Dream Cam

The Minolta Dimage EX1500 Zoom costs more than the others and will take you longer to learn to use, but it has one feature no other digital camera in the world (that I know of) offers: the entire lens assembly can be detached from the camera body and placed in any imaginable position you desire. A five foot optional cable allows you to hold the LCD monitor in a comfortable position while poking the lens around a corner, over a fence, or even into a hole in the ground. I found it great for cat photography; the small handheld lens part becomes very non-threatening and allows for some unusual angles. It does have a few quirks: the lens cuts slightly into the optical viewfinder's field of view at its widest setting; you have to open the battery compartment to insert or remove the memory card; and its LCD monitor is jerky when you move the camera to frame your scenes - all annoying, but not fatal. With a 3x optical zoom, f-3.5 lens, 1/4000 second shutter speed, five flash modes, a burst rate of up to 7.5 frames per second at high resolution, and its detachable lens feature, this is a one-of-a-kind digital camera. Street price: about \$550.

<<http://minoltausa.com/mainframe.asp?productID=200&whichProductSection=1&whichSection=2>>

The Scrunch Eliminator

The Canon PowerShot A50 Zoom has a unique optical 2.5x zoom which, at its widest setting, is the equivalent of a 28 mm lens on a 35 mm camera. Although most people crave more telephoto power, it's the wide end of the zoom that produces the most visually interesting shots, with great depth of field and dramatic spatial relationships between objects in the foreground and background. You can also get more of a crowd into the picture at close quarters without having them scrunch together. In its miniature brushed duraluminum case, it looks like it was designed not only to see, but to be seen. It has an f-2.6 lens, shutter speeds from 2 to 1/750 second, four flash modes, and is able to capture uncompressed images if you need the highest quality. It has an interesting feature that forces the camera to shoot at the slowest speed commensurate with good exposure which, among other things, will let you pan with a moving subject or object to keep them sharp while blurring the background. If you choose this digital came-



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ra, plan on spending another \$80 or so for a kit containing a rechargeable Lithium-Ion battery and a charger/AC power combination because it comes with only a disposable battery. Street price: about \$325.

<<http://www.powershot.com/powershot2/a50/main.html>>

Hi-Res & Smokin' Fast

The Toshiba PDR-M4 is the only 2.1 megapixel digital camera in this group. Alas, it doesn't have an optical zoom lens but it does have 2x digital one (which, unfortunately, lowers resolution when used). Nevertheless it's a speed demon: two seconds from power-on to ready, less than a second between shots, a burst-rate - at its highest resolution - of four shots in two seconds, and some super-slow shutter speeds (up to eight seconds) to allow great, special effects night photography. It's a mini-camera (the most compact of the group) and if you have big hands you'll have to adjust somewhat, but that's a small price to pay for the quality of images you'll get. The camera includes a Lithium-Ion battery which can be charged in-camera or with an optional external charger. (Put a spare battery on your shopping list, though, to have as a backup.) With an aperture of f-3.2 or f-8, a normal shutter speed range of between 1/4 and 1/1000 second, 4-inch macro capabilities, five flash modes, NTSC video out, and an 8 MB SmartMedia memory card included, this is quite a package for the price. It comes with both serial and USB. If you need super-high resolution and speed, and can forego the zoom lens, this little jewel could be a good choice. Street price: about \$400.

<<http://www.toshiba.com/taisisd/dsc/products/cameras/pdrm4/index3.htm>>

A Digital Tomorrow Today

All of the cameras above are good values with outstanding features and realistic prices: the flexibility of digital photography has finally come down to earth for a wide range of consumers.

[Arthur H. Bleich is a photographer, writer, and educator who lives in Miami. He has done assignments for major publications both in the U.S. and abroad and is currently Contributing Editor of Digital Camera Magazine.]

Macintosh-Windows Translation Dictionary

by Adam C. Engst <ace@tidbits.com>

It's been hard keeping this one under wraps, but for almost a year and a half now, I've been working on a truly neat project that's also been one of the hardest things I've ever done and, I hope, one of the most useful. Together with David Pogue (who you may know as the author of "Macs for Dummies" and the Desktop Critic column in Macworld magazine each month), I've written a new book called "Crossing Platforms: A Macintosh/Windows Phrasebook" (ISBN 1-56592-539-4, O'Reilly, 1999). The book lists for \$29.95, but is readily available for less from most booksellers, including Amazon, with whom TidBITS has an affiliate program.

<<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/platforms/>>
<<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=1565925394/tidbitselectro00A/>>